




# FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

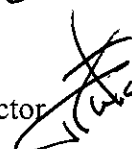
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## M E M O R A N D U M



**TO:** Chairman and Members  
Park Authority Board

**VIA:** Michael A. Kane, Director 

**FROM:** Timothy K. White, Deputy Director 

**DATE:** May 5, 2006

### *Agenda*

**Funding Policy and Bond Committee**  
**Wednesday, May 10, 2006 – 8:15 p.m.**  
**Board Room – Herrity Building**  
**Chairman: Gilbert S. McCutcheon**

1. FY 2006 Bond

\*Enclosures

cc: Leadership Team

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Committee Agenda Item  
May 10, 2006

## **DISCUSSION**

### FY 2006 Bond

Strategies for allocation of funding for the FY 2006 bond will be discussed.

The Department of Management and Budget requires a breakdown by broad category, no later than May 22, 2006, detailing how the \$25,000,000 will be allocated. As noted on the attached calendar, the FY 2006 Bond will be discussed at the Board of Supervisors meeting on June 5, 2006, and information on how the Park Authority intends to allocate the bond funds amongst land acquisition, trails, and synthetic turf fields is required in advance of that meeting.

### ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Memorandum to Chairman Connolly dated January 25, 2006

Attachment 2: Board Motions – Recommended Actions for FY 2007 Capital  
Improvement Program

Attachment 3: Fall 2006 Bond Referenda Schedule

### STAFF:

Michael A. Kane, Director

Timothy K. White, Chief Operating Officer

Lynn S. Tadlock, Director, Planning and Development Division

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# FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927  
Fairfax, VA 22035-1118



January 25, 2006

Gerald Connolly, Chairman  
Board of Supervisors  
Fairfax County Government  
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 530  
Fairfax, VA 22035

Dear Chairman Connolly:

Thank you for joining the Park Authority and the Park Foundation Board at our holiday reception. I was pleased you and your wife allowed time in your busy schedule to visit with us at historic Dranesville Tavern. It is precisely because of your strong commitment to parks' role in improving Fairfax County citizens' quality of life that we are able to further our mutual objectives. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you. In that regard, I want to follow up on our earlier discussions regarding the potential for an interim bond referendum that would enable the Park Authority to continue to meet citizen needs and the Board of Supervisors' vision.

Gerry, as you know, a few years back, the Park Authority undertook a comprehensive Needs Assessment to address recreation, open space, and park needs in Fairfax County, and to define our agency's role in future land acquisition and capital improvements designed to meet those needs. The Needs Assessment also addressed citizen support for applying capital funding resources in various areas. Residents were most supportive of allocating resources to the dual task of maintaining Park Authority facilities and purchasing land to preserve additional open space. Residents expressed high expectations. In fact, seven in ten households expected park system improvements designed to meet their needs be available in less than ten years. This presents quite a challenge to the Park Authority Board, and we want to be certain that we are addressing this challenge in full consort with you and the Board of Supervisors.

In order to meet citizen expectations, the Park Authority Board would like to propose a 2006 interim bond referendum, to specifically support the following three strategic initiatives:

## **1. Land Acquisition**

The remaining open space in Fairfax County is rapidly diminishing. While in the past decades planners could take comfort that more opportunities to acquire parkland would be available if a particular opportunity was lost, there are now precious few options to acquire new parkland. I am especially appreciative of your continued support and expression to the public about your commitment to open space in Fairfax County.

To date, all of the 2002 and 2004 Park Bond land acquisition funds have been expended or committed to key acquisitions throughout the county. Several of these acquisition projects are in final negotiations and are due to be settled within the year. In addition, the Park Authority work plan currently identifies more opportunities for land acquisition than available funding.

The Park Authority faces several challenges as we work toward achieving the benchmark you have set for us of ownership of 10% of Fairfax County as parkland. With the Park Authority's ownership currently at 23,523 acres, an additional 1,800 acres is needed to achieve the goal of 10%. Without the support and cooperation of the Board of Supervisors through past and upcoming land transfers, this milestone would have been unreachable. Even with the transfer of additional acreage from the Board of Supervisors and from the Fairfax County Public Schools, we will remain short of the 10% ownership goal.

The Park Authority is seeking \$10,000,000 in the interim bond referendum to support our initiatives to acquire land. This funding will allow us to continue on a land acquisition pace that will position us for the scheduled 2008 Park Bond Referendum so that we can secure the necessary land resources that are needed to meet the citizen-expressed facility needs. While land costs vary throughout the county, it is clear that this additional funding would bring us closer to meeting your goal of the Park Authority owning 10% of the county as parkland.

**2. Funding for Artificial Surfaces on Athletic Fields**

The Park Authority is seeking \$10,000,000 in the interim bond referendum to support funding for artificial surfaces on athletic fields. The 2002 Needs Assessment projected a shortage in rectangle fields over the next ten years. Specifically, the Park Authority identified 95 rectangle sports fields needed through 2013 in order to sufficiently address citizen needs. The benefit of converting natural turf fields to artificial turf fields is clear and can greatly assist in meeting the facility shortage for these types of fields. The Fairfax County athletic community has endorsed an approach whereby they, along with county and private partners, join together to help address this need. We see our role to "jump start" the program by being able to deliver a significant number of artificial fields in a relatively compressed time frame. Artificial turf is estimated to add approximately 62% more capacity to a lit field by expanding the seasons and time periods of play and improving field quality. Therefore, if the Park Authority were to convert 10 lit fields to artificial turf it would count as the equivalent of an additional six (6) new fields being added to our inventory. In addition, artificial surface rectangular fields, located throughout the county, will help address the current issue of walk-on use.

**3. Funding for Trails**

The Park Authority is seeking \$8,000,000 in the interim bond referendum to support funding for trails. The most popular activity for Fairfax County residents, as expressed in our Needs Assessment, is hiking/walking on trails, with over 45% of the county's population

participating in this activity. The recently completed Cross County Trail now serves as the spine of the county. With 38 miles in length connecting the entire county from one end to the other, the Cross County Trail runs through some of the county's most scenic areas, beginning at Great Falls National Park on the mighty Potomac River and extending south to the Occoquan River and Laurel Hill. Although the recent completion of the Cross County Trail is certainly cause for celebration, there is still work to be done.

We wish to assist in encouraging residents to utilize alternative means of transportation for work or leisure activities in any way possible. Completing trail connections can assist in reducing their use of personal vehicles on our busy highways. Additional connections to the cross-county trail to and from communities are needed, and there are improvements to be made to existing trail network connections county-wide. These efforts, combined, will help to ensure the most connectivity countywide.

Gerry, it is clear that you, the Board of Supervisors, and the Park Authority Board share the same vision and desire to see these projects through to completion in order to meet our collective goals. We appreciate the guidance your leadership and vision provide. We hope that you and your fellow Supervisors will agree that an interim bond in 2006, in the amount of \$28,000,000, makes sense and is critical in delivering these services to the citizens of Fairfax County.

Thanks again for your commitment and support of these and other Park Authority initiatives, and I look forward to our continued collaboration.

Yours truly,



Harold L. Strickland  
Chairman  
Park Authority Board

cc: Park Authority Board  
Michael A. Kane, Director

## **BOARD MOTIONS**

### **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FY 2007 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

I move Board approval of the FY 2007 – FY 2011 Capital Improvement Program (with future fiscal years to 2016) with the following amendments:

- Increase the annual bond sale limit from \$200 million per year to \$275 million per year including an additional \$25 million per year for the schools for six years and an additional \$50 million per year for the County.
- Include a Park Authority Bond Referendum for the fall 2006 in the amount of \$25 million. Staff is directed to return to the Board of Supervisors with recommendations on the allocation of these funds for purposes to include land acquisition and synthetic turf field development.
- Include a Transportation Bond Referendum for fall 2007 in the amount of \$100 million. Staff is directed to return to the Board of Supervisors with a recommended project list to include prioritized roads, sidewalks, trails, bus stop improvements, bicycle routes and pedestrian connections and other components of the transportation network.
- Staff is directed to review the County's commercial and neighborhood revitalization programs and to provide recommendations on strategies to enhance the effectiveness of the programs, to identify and make available appropriate financing mechanisms, and to put in place the organizational supports necessary to sustain the programs.
- Accelerate the development of the Lorton Community Action Center, which is currently shown in the CIP in the "Beyond 5-Year CIP Period", to the "5-Year CIP period" and direct staff to return to the Board as part of the FY 2006 Carryover Review with information and recommendations as to the appropriate timing for construction of the project and funding requirements for planning and design of the facility.
- Make all necessary adjustments to reflect actions taken during the Board's decision on the FY 2007 Adopted Budget Plan that impact the CIP.



*PROPOSED*  
**FALL 2006 BOND REFERENDA SCHEDULE**

May 1, 2006	Board adopts CIP
June 5, 2006	Board schedules a Public Hearing on Public Safety Bond Referenda; Proposed project list available.
June 19, 2006	Public Hearing Held and Board Decision; Board appointments to Citizens Committee
June 20, 2006	Petition for Special Elections on Bonds
June 29, 2006	Circuit Court orders Special Elections on Bonds
July 3, 2006	Submit County Referendum to DOJ for review (61-day pre-clearance period usually required)
July 31, 2006	Board Consideration of Explanatory Bond Referendum Statements (Plain Language Text)
September 25, 2006	Absentee ballots available (required 45 days prior to election)
October 13, 2006	Advertisement of election
November 7, 2006	Election Day; referendum held
November 10, 2006	Referendum Results certified by County Electoral Board

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